

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Susan Pollock (858) 505-6322

OMBUDSMEN NEEDED TO ADVOCATE FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS Volunteers Work to Ensure Rights of Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's (HHSA) <u>Long-Term Care</u> <u>Ombudsman Program</u> is looking for volunteers to help safeguard the rights of residents in nursing homes and board and care facilities.

Ombudsman volunteers advocate for the quality of life and quality of care for long-term care residents. They also maintain a regular presence in more than 675 skilled nursing facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly in San Diego County.

Volunteers must successfully complete a 40-hour training course, 10 hours of fieldwork and be available five hours per week, to be recommended for state certification as a Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The training for volunteer ombudsmen will begin March 7 and take place Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through March 30 at HHSA offices in Kearny Mesa (no class on Good Friday).

For more information about the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, or to register for the training, call toll-free at (800) 640-4661.

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